

# The Alexandria Gazette.

VOLUME LXV.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 19, 1864

NUMBER 67.

PUBLISHED (DAILY) BY

EDGAR SNOWDEN, JR.

OFFICE—No. 104 King street, over Snow's, (formerly French's) Book Store.

U. S. CONGRESS.—In the Senate of the United States yesterday, Mr. Wilson called up the bill to promote enlistments in the army, and offered a substitute for it, which provides for setting free the wives and children of slaves enlisted into the service of the United States. The Commissioners under the amended enrollment act are authorized to award to each "loyal" owner a just compensation. The bill gave rise to a debate, which continued until nearly the close of the session. The Senate adjourned until Monday.

In the House of Representatives, the bill to facilitate the acquirement of titles to homesteads, was taken up and an amendment was offered to place the confiscated lands of "Rebels" in the same category as the public domain, and, like that, open to settlement under the homestead bill. The amendment was subsequently withdrawn, and another one was offered which provides for a gift of homesteads to soldiers, or to the widows of soldiers who have served for two years; have received an honorable discharge, and who have resided on the land for one year. This amendment was rejected, and the bill then passed. A resolution to pay Messrs. Gales and Seaton for the annals and debates of Congress actually delivered by them to the Library, pending the reconsideration of the vote upon the subject authorizing the purchase, elicited considerable debate and the resolution was finally laid on the table by a vote of 67 yeas to 50 nays.

The New York Express says:—If "truth lies," as the old proverb says it does "at the bottom of a well," we fear there are not many wells in Gen. Butler's Department. The other day we had glowing accounts of the behaviour of the negro troops at Suffolk. Those accounts had on the face of them,—we thought at the time, internal evidence of exaggeration, but the Express, as usual in such cases, printed them as it prints much other matter of the same sort from the same source, without note or comment. The Confederate version of the affair is now before us, and that version, it will be seen, reports that the whole affair was a sort of "race for life" on the part of the U. S. Cavalry. Nothing is ever gained by withholding or perverting the truth. It may subserve some temporary purpose, but in the end it hurts more than it helps those who give countenance to it."

Colonel Hoffman, U. S. Commissary General of prisoners, states that boxes containing nothing hurtful or contraband, for prisoners of war now in custody, sent by families or friends of the parties, may be delivered to such prisoners of war. Among the contraband articles are any uniform clothing or equipments for military service, weapons of all kinds, intoxicating liquors, and any excess of clothing over what is required for immediate use.

Dispatches from Cairo state that several men were arrested, a few days since, below Hickman, Ky., for having, among others, organized themselves into companies for the avowed purpose of entering the Confederate service. A number of Confederate sympathizers have been actively recruiting for the Confederate army. Guerilla bands are being formed by the citizens of several towns and counties in Kentucky, for the purpose of interrupting the navigation of the Mississippi.

Official information says the Richmond Examiner, has been received that three gunboats and five transports have ascended the York river to the vicinity of West Point, and are landing troops on the south side of the river, about five miles below that point. The object of the movement has not yet been developed.

Gen. Pope has advised emigrants designing to cross the plains to await the advance of Gen. Sully's cavalry force, which will be sent out as soon as grass grows. The Sioux are concentrating in Missouri, above the mouth of Grand River, and he says they must be dispersed or brought to a peace before it will be safe for emigrant trains to proceed.

The General Assembly of Kentucky passed a resolution declaring that they regard as impolitic the enlistment of negroes, and protest against it in that State, respectfully requesting President Lincoln to remove all the camps for negroes, by which slaves are enticed to leave the services of their owners.

An Indian battle has taken place between the Arrapahoes, the Choyennes and the Utes, near Arkansas. The latter were victors. The Sioux threatened to make war on the white people in the Spring.

Daniel B. Monroe, a soldier in the Sixty-second Ohio, was shot dead in the street at Zanesville, Ohio, on Wednesday afternoon by a man named Sanders. Lynch law was agitated and feared.

Oysters were higher in price in Philadelphia, on Wednesday, than the oldest inhabitant can remember. They sold in bulk from the oyster shops at from ten to fifteen dollars a thousand. The bivalves at the latter figure were of the very commonest description.

It is said that the French ladies are starting a new fashion. The tuft of the hair at the side of the face, which is frequently curled is to fall straight down the face in a thick mass, and to be frizzed so as to look like whiskers.

During the past year the Virginia lead mines produced lead enough for ten millions of ounce balls, and this year the quantity will be doubled.

It is rumored that the Ninth Army Corps will shortly rendezvous at Annapolis, where a new expedition, comprising some twenty or twenty-five thousand men, is to be organized under the command of Gen. Burnside.

About thirty refugees from Rockingham county (Va.) arrived at Wheeling on Wednesday. Two men were killed in attempting to reach the Federal lines.

It is stated in the official organ, and verified at the proper bureau that the U. S. army on the 1st of March, 1864, was 300,000 stronger than it was on the 1st of January, 1863. As the army was then limited by law to 500,000, it follows that there were borne on the rolls, on the 1st of the present month, about 800,000 men. Since then estimates have been made by Gen. Meigs for 200,000 to be enlisted to make up the call for 500,000 in October last.—The 200,000 men called for will be needed to supply losses in the ensuing campaign, and to make up for the limited number of soldiers whose terms of service will expire within a year.

Private John Pusick New York volunteers, who was on guard duty at Carroll prison on the 24 day of November, 1863, and accepted a bribe of \$202 from Frank Walton and John E. Hudgins, prisoners of State, to assist in their escape, has been tried lately by court-martial, upon the charge of "accepting a bribe to the prejudice of good order and discipline," and sentenced to be dishonorably discharged the service of the United States, with the loss of all pay and allowances, and to be imprisoned at hard labor during the period of eight years and six months."

It is stated that "Major C. A. B. Dimon, of Salem, Mass., has been ordered to Point Lookout, Md., by Gen. Butler, to organize into regiments Confederate prisoners of war enlisting in the U. S. service."

The New York Times is authority for the statement that private advices from the South represent that the Confederates have organized a very strong force in North Carolina, which is said to be the nucleus of an army of observation, whose special duty will be to watch the Southern part of James River, in expectation of an attempt being made by General Grant to capture Richmond. We are further told, as a part of the programme of defensive operations, that General Longstreet, is to be recalled from East Tennessee, and will assume command of the Army of Southern Virginia.

There was a great McClellan demonstration at Cooper Institute, in New York, on Thursday evening last. The Journal of Commerce says "that such a meeting, unaided by party machinery, was never before seen in New York or America. The enthusiasm was immense in parts of the vast gathering." Amos Kendall presided over the meeting and delivered an eloquent speech. Other speakers were Hiram Ketchum, jr., Richard T. Jacobs, Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky; Gen. A. Banning Norton and others.

The report telegraphed from New York to the effect that Stuart had crossed the Rappahannock, near Fredericksburg, and that Kilpatrick and Merritt were in pursuit of him, is said to be without foundation. A dispatch, however, received last night from the Army of the Potomac, says there are rumors there of a contemplated raid by Stuart, but nothing of a reliable character was known concerning it.